(d) The Commission hass undertaken to formulate guidelines laid down by the Supreme Court to temper the rigour of the provisions of the Act and it will take some time to finalise the guidelines.

(e) The Complaints received by the Commission are 10 and 36 in respect of Nagaland and Jammu & Kashmir respectively.

Multi-Purpose Identity Cards

2326. SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: Will the Minister of HOME AFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to introduce Multi-purpose Identity Cards for all citizens;

(b) if so, the details thereof, along with the time by which such cards are likely to be introduced;

(c) the extent to which such a move will minimise infiltrators and illegal occupants not only in border areas but in other areas of the country; and

(d) the other benefits of introduction of Multi-purpose Identity Cards?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) to (d) There is proposal to issue multipurpose National Identity Cards to all citizens of 14 years and above. Persons below 14 years are to be compulsorily registered under Registration of Births & Deaths Act, 1969. The names of such persons are to be included in their father's/mother's cards. Separate coloured cards are proposed to be issued to non-citizens. its implementation will be taken up after a Central Legislation for this purpose has been enacted. The multipurpose National Identity Cards will help substandially in checking illegal immigration and infiltration and in tracing of criminals and subversives, specially in the border areas of the country. These Cards will also be used for the purposes of Issuing passports, driving licences, ration cards, health care, admission in educational institutions, employment in public/private sector, life and general insurance as also for maintenance of land records and urban property holdings.

Economic blockade in Manipur

2327. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 24 days' economic blockade by United Naga Council of Manipur has seriously affected life and entire system of Manipur;

(b) whether the supply of essential commodities has stopped and prices of all items have gone up; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to restore normalcy?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L. K. ADVANI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The 32 days economic blockade by the United Naga Council of Manipur from May 23, 1998 to June 23, 1998 seriously affected the availability of essential commodities in Manipur leading to a sharp increase in prices.

(c) Government of Manipur was advised to ensure that the blockade is lifted immediately. Essential commodities were brought to Manipur under heavy escort. Army and para-military forces provided necessary assistance in this regard. Simultaneously, Government of Manipur conducted negotiations with the United Naga Council which led to signing of a Memorandum of Understanding and suspension of the blockade with effect from June 24, 1998.

Spurt in Insurgency in NE States

2328. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether activities of insurgents have increased in the recent past in North Eastern States;

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take to check these activities;

(c) whether Government have held talks with these groups; and

(d) if so, the details and results thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L. K. ADVANI): (a) and (b) It cannot be said that there has been any spurt in militant activities in the NE States.

The steps taken by the Government to check militancy in the North Eastern States include, interalia, deployment of additional units of Central Para Military Forces and Army; improved coordination and sharing of intelligence; modernisation/upgradation of State Police forces; sanction of Special Central Assistance; declaration of the most seriously affected areas as 'disturbed areas' and notification of the major insurgent groups as 'unlawful associations'. The situation is also kept under watch and is reviewed from time to time for taking appropriate action.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The Government have decided to hold talks with the Issac Muivah group of National Socialist Council of Nagaland which responded to the offer for talks made by the Government.

Talks with this group are continuing.

Strike by DGHC

2329. SHRI DAWA LAMA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the chairman of DGHC and the Executive Councillors called for 72 hours strike during 12th Lok Sabha elections on 2nd February, 1998;

(b) whether Government are also aware that armed threats to voters continued for days since 17th February, 1998 at Darjeeling to disrupt the election;

(c) whether the returning officer of Darjeeling did not take any steps to ensure securities of electorates; and

(d) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by Government against such anti-national activities?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L. K. ADVANI): (a) The Government is aware that Gorkha National Liberation Front had called for a 72-hour Darjeeling bandh from 20th to 22nd February, 1998 and appealed to the people to boycott Parliamentary Election in the Darjeeling Parliamentary Constituency.

(b) and (c) Reports available indicate that persons drafted for polling duties were reportedly intimidated and threats were also held out to them in case they performed the election duty. State Government had taken appropriate steps to ensure smooth polling by deploying Central Para-military Forces in addition to the State Police Force, deployed in connection with the polling.

(d) Central Government is keeping a close watch over such activities, in consultation with the State Government.

Shifting of Assam Rifle's Site

2330. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the time frame to complete the construction of Assam Rifle's new site at Longa Koireng, Imphal and to shift from the existing place, Kangla, Imphal.

(b) the amount so far, released by Government for its construction; and

(c) the balance amount to be released to complete it?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L. K. ADVANI): (a) The process of shifting of Assam Rifles from Kangla Fort has already begun. An extent of 36.81 acres has already been handed over to the State Government by Assam Rifles. This process is estimated